

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 08422 041404Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 041355Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1645

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T LONDON 08422

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR - NATO TREATMENT OF OPTION III

REF: USNATO 3070 AND 3075

1. DURING GENERAL CONVERSATION JUNE 3 WITH KILLICK AND TICKELL WE EXPRESSED SOME OF THE CONCERNS MENTIONED USNATO'S 3070 ABOUT REPORTED BRITISH VIEW THAT MBFR WORKING GROUP MUST UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF OPTION III. BOTH OFFICIALS WERE QUICK TO PROTEST THAT BRITISH HAVE NO DESIRE TO SLOW DOWN CONSIDERATION OF OPTION III WITHIN ALLIANCE. THEY ALSO STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT THEY WERE NOT WEDDED TO USING THE WORKING GROUP; OTHER VEHICLES COULD BE USED, FOR EXAMPLE THE SPC. THEY SUGGESTED THAT EXPERTS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SPC COULD DO THE JOB. THEY MADE CLEAR THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD ALL OUR REASONS FOR NOT WISHING TO REMAND OPTION III TO WORKING GROUP. BUT TICKELL EMPHASIZED THAT BRITISH HOLD FIRMLY TO STATEMENT IN THEIR PAPER COMMENTING ON US PAPER ON OPTION III (LONDON 703L), NAMELY THAT THE MILITARY AND TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS OF OPTION III MUST BE FULLY ASSESSED IN THE ALLIANCE AND THE NECESSARY DECISIONS TAKEN BEFORE OPTION III IS TABLED. TICKELL ADDED THAT OTHERS IN NATO WOULD BE EQUALLY INSISTENT ON THIS POINT.

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2. KILLICK DIGRESSED TO SAY THAT IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD CONTEMPLATED NO BRITISH REDUCTIONS, LABOR IS FULLY COMMITTED BY ITS MANIFESTO TO PRESSING AHEAD WITH MBFR; AS WILSON MADE CLEAR AT NATO SUMMIT, HE WANTS AND INDEED MUST TAKE AN UP-BEAT POSITION ON MBFR. KILLICK CONCLUDED BY OBSERVING THAT "OPTION III IS YOUR OPTION," BUT THE US SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT THE ALLIES FEEL THEIR VIEWS HAVE BEEN FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PARM, NATO  
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